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SPIRIT NEWS

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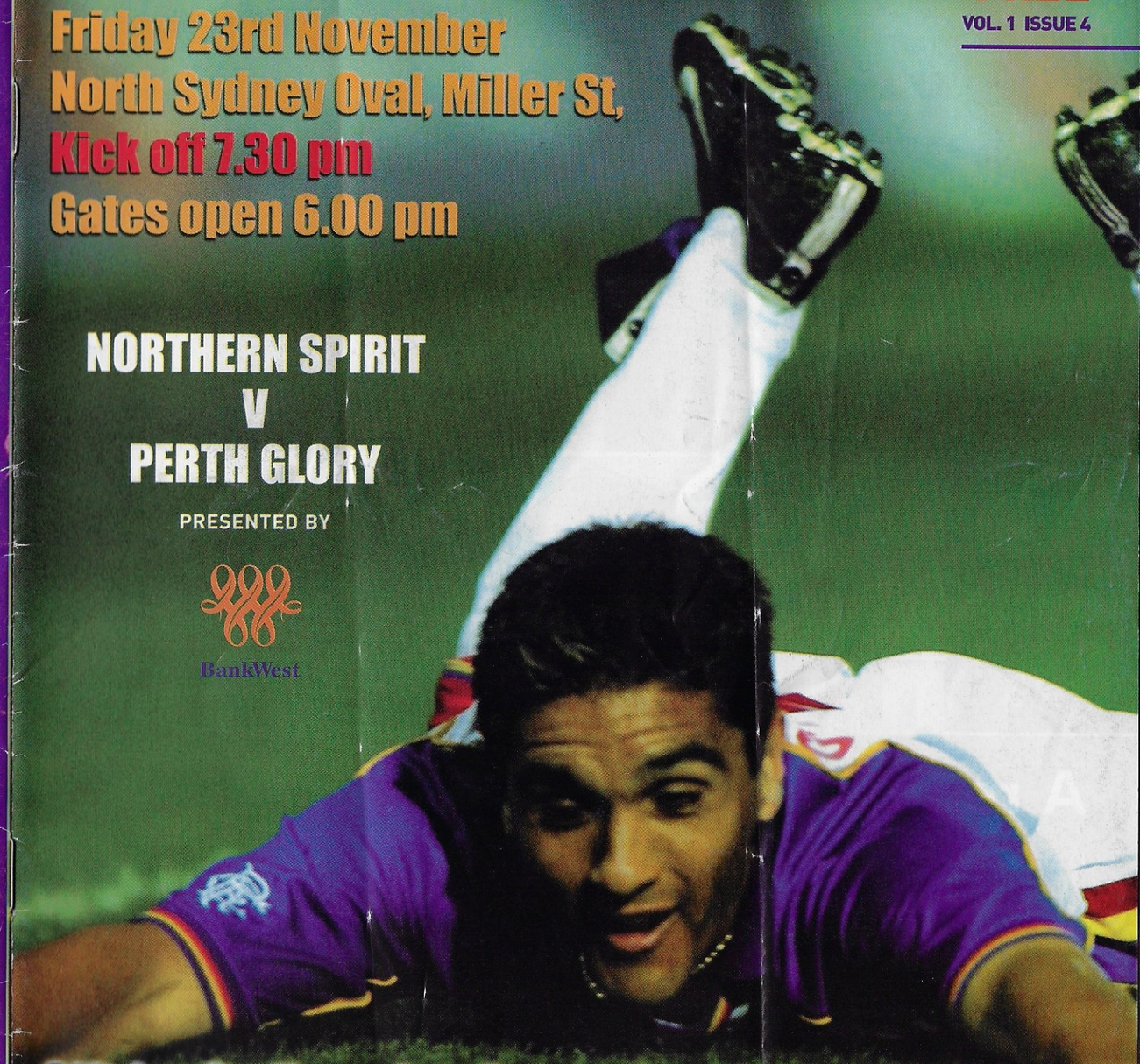
VOL. 1 ISSUE 4

Friday 23rd November
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Kick off 7.30 pm
Gates open 6.00 pm

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GLOVES OFF FOR GOALMOUTH SHOOTOUT

By ADAM LUCIUS

LADIES and gentlemen!

In the purple corner, weighing in at 88kg and standing 180cm tall, we have the reigning champion all the way from the golden west.

In the white corner, tipping the scales at 74kg and looking down from 176cm, is the spirited challenger from Sydney's north.

Let's get ready to rumble. . .

The good news is you won't have to travel to a smoky Las Vegas casino to watch the long-awaited Mori v Cardozo stoush.

Just find yourself a vantage spot at North Sydney Oval tonight and watch the NSL's two best strikers go head-to-head over 90 minutes when Perth Glory take on Northern Spirit.

There is a good chance that whoever gets the upper hand will deliver his side the three points.

Cardozo and Mori have a habit of scoring goals when they count.

Mori, the league's all-time leading scorer with 176 goals, has already found the back of the net on nine occasions this season.

Cardozo, who recently struck his 100th NSL goal, sits on four goals with the promise of more to come once the new-look Spirit side fully gels.

So who is the leading marksman?

Brisbane Strikers coach and former Socceroo striker John Kosmina, scorer of 133 NSL goals, is in a good position to judge.

"They are different types of strikers," he explained.

"Frogga (Mori) relies on his pace and strength while Pablo is technically sounder.

"Frogga is just a born goal scorer who is good at getting on to the end of things, while Pablo probably creates more goals out of nothing.

"These two would definitely be up there on my list of top five strikers in the league."

So if both Mori and Cardozo fell onto the open market and Kosmina had the chance to sign one of them, whom would he opt for?

"It would all depend on who is playing around them," he said.

"Mori gets played in a lot and once he gets behind a defence it's usually goodnight.

"The guys around him are doing the job at Perth, while Pablo seems to be improving with every game at Spirit.

"You wouldn't complain if either one of them wound up in your team."

Odds are that either Mori or Cardozo – or, perhaps, both – will find himself on the scoresheet tonight.

So, as you spare a thought for the hapless defenders, sit back and enjoy a rumble, soccer-style.

Gentlemen, touch gloves and come out striking.

*** ADAM LUCIUS is Sports Editor of The Manly Daily.

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COVER PICTURE:
SPIRIT STRIKER PABLO CARDOZO
- JOSEPH MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

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ROBBIE T: SPIRIT'S STAND AND DELIVER MAN

BY TIM PRENTICE

WHEN Spirit coach Mick Hickman went searching for a player to consistently feed his forward line, he picked up the phone and called The Provider.

Robbie Trajkovski was the man he had in mind and, after a couple of months, it's easy to see why the ex-Carlton and Perth star has been one of the most crucial signings Northern Spirit will ever make.

The seasoned midfielder has settled in quickly at Spirit, his attacking runs and precision crosses ringing alarm bells for the opposition in every match he has played.

Strikers Pablo Cardozo and Adrian Cervinski have greatly appreciated the service but John Hutchinson has been the man who has really dined out on the quality balls coming in from the flank.

"Hutch" has scored three headed goals from Trajkovski crosses and their combination will need to be closely watched by Perth's defence tonight.

"We have a bit of a combination developing," Trajkovski told Northern Spirit News.

"Hutch has the knack of getting into the perfect position for my crosses and I get as big a thrill as he does when the ball beats the 'keeper and slams into the net."

Trajkovski, 29, has been an ultra-consistent performer in the NSL, playing 167 games with his special blend of skill, determination and passion.

He has spent the last three years in Perth Glory colours and it came as a surprise when Mick Hickman was able to lure him away from the successful WA club.

"I just felt like a change and of course, the lifestyle in Sydney is pretty attractive," he said.

"My family and I are living in Dee Why handy to the beach and that's not hard to take.

"I was one of several new players at Northern Spirit this year, but it's probably fair to say we have all settled in quickly. It's a very professional set-up here, an enjoyable place to play football. I must say that it is not unlike the successful set-up at Perth Glory.

"We have got away to a useful start with some great performances away from home. It's now time we set about improving our record at home and I believe we can.

"Our last game at North Sydney produced a determined win over South Melbourne. Perth haven't lost a game yet, they have been in terrific form.

"We played them three times in the pre-season for two narrow losses and a 0-0 draw. They haven't missed a beat since the comp began but I have no doubts that we have the team and the momentum to stop their run."

Trajkovski says the Round 4 "shocker" Spirit handed in against the Olympic Sharks may well turn out to be the most important part of Spirit's season.

"Fifteen minutes of madness allowed them to bang in three goals and it really put us back on our heels," he said.

"Since then, we have regrouped and played some excellent soccer to grab a place in the top six.

"It is where we think we should be at this stage of the season but there is space there to make heaps of improvement in time for the finals."

On a personal note Trajkovski, a veteran of three grand finals, says there is one aspect of his game he would dearly love to improve as the year goes on.

"I'd like a few goals against my name," he confessed. "I have only scored six in my whole NSL career and I reckon with a bit of luck, I can double that by April."

PABS AND HICKEY ON ROAD TO GLORY

BY ADAM LUCIUS

PABLO Cardozo's cross-town move from Olympic to Northern Spirit received little publicity considering the magnitude of the switch.

Here was one of the NSL's leading marksmen – 96 goals to his name – walking out on the club where he had made his name to link with a club struggling on the field.

But the knockers under-estimated the "pull" Spirit coach Mick Hickman has on the dark-haired striker with a knack for scoring important goals.

Hickman gave "Pabs" his NSL start 11 years ago when the pair was at Sydney Olympic and the pupil has been wanting to repay his mentor ever since.

While on the surface it might have seen like a difficult -- and potentially career-threatening -- decision to quit Olympic, Cardozo trusted Hickman and wanted to be part of the promised revival at North Sydney Oval.

The former Socceroo has responded with four goals in seven games, becoming the 13th player in NSL history to crack the magical 100 goal mark.

No wonder Cardozo and Hickman are paid-up members of the mutual admiration society!

"I gave Pablo his start and it was clear even back then he was something special," Hickman said.

"He has come a long way since then and is now a quality striker.

"The thing I most like about him is he still has the same desire to play football that he had as a teenager. He just loves to play."

Over to you, Pablo.

"I remember that first game pretty clearly," he said. "It was against Sunshine George Cross at St George Stadium and I set up the second goal in a two-nil win.

"You never forget your first game and I never forgot Mick was the one who gave me my chance.

"I think very highly of him as a person and a coach and he is starting to get the team heading in the right direction."

There have been two areas of consistency at Northern Spirit in recent seasons.

One is they invariably flatter to deceive at home and the second is their impotency in front of goal.

Cardozo's arrival threatens to overturn those traits.

He is delivering goals on a regular basis and the home ground jinx appears to have been broken at last.

But the biggest test to that revival arrives tonight in the shape of Perth Glory.

The westerners have arguably been the League's most consistent team over the past few seasons, but has yet to break through for that maiden title.

The hot tip is they will finally end the drought this season and their early, winning form only reinforces that view.

"Perth have been an early stand-out and they are favourites for the title, there's no denying that," Hickman declared.

"It is going to take something special, week in, week out, for teams to secure three points and stay in touch.

"But the race is far from over. Perth is a great side but every team can be beaten.

"Our goal remains the same: qualify for the top six and see what we can do from there."

"It is a very tight race, but that also makes it a very exciting competition."

*** ADAM LUCIUS is Sports Editor of The Manly Daily

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PERTH GLORY

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No	Name	Position
1	Jason PETKOVIC	Goalkeeper
2	Matthew HORSLEY	Midfielder
3	Jamie HARNWELL	Defender
4	Ljubo MILICEVIC	Defender
5	Craig DEANS	Defender
6	Gareth NAVEN	Midfielder
7	Scott MILLER	Defender
8	Brad MALONEY	Midfielder
9	Alistair EDWARDS	Striker
10	Bobby DESPOTOVSKI	Striker
11	Michael GARCIA	Midfielder
12	Brad HASSELL	Midfielder
13	Anthony DANZE	Midfielder
14	Dion VALLE	Defender
15	Edgar ALDRIGHI	Midfielder
16	Damian MORI	Striker
17	Gary FARIA	Midfielder
18	Shane PRYCE	Defender
20	Tony FRANKEN	Goalkeeper
21	Paul ROBERTS	Midfielder
22	Anthony NAGLIERI	Midfielder
23	David TARKA	Defender
25	Todd HARNWELL	Defender
26	Nick MRDJA	Striker
30	Vince Matassa	Goalkeeper

northern spirit f.c.

Head Coach: Mick Hickman

No	Name	Position
1	Lupce ACEVSKI	Goalkeeper
2	Julian WATTS	Defender
3	Simon BELL	Defender
4	Noel SPENCER	Defender
5	Robert TRAJKOVSKI	Midfield
6	Scott THOMAS	Midfield
7	Andy MCDERMOTT	Midfield
8	Craig FOSTER	Midfield
9	Adrian CERVINSKI	Striker
10	Pablo CARDOZO	Striker
11	Troy CRANNEY	Midfield
12	John HUTCHINSON	Midfield
14	Michael CARTWRIGHT	Defender
16	Simon CATANZARO	Midfield
17	Gabriel MENDEZ	Midfield
18	Robbie ENES	Midfield
19	Ryan GRIFFITHS	Striker
20	Paul HENDERSON	Goalkeeper
21	Adam GRIFFITHS	Midfield
22	Jacek SOBCZYK	Defender
23	Steven BAVEAS	Midfield
27	Brent FISHER	Striker
28	Matthew HUNTER	Defender
29	Alex WILKINSON	Defender
30	Jacob REX	Goalkeeper



HENDO THE HERO ROARS BACK TO HIS BRILLIANT BEST

BY DAVID MASON

NORTHERN SPIRIT 2
(Bell 77, Hutchinson 82) d
MARCONI STALLIONS 0

Marconi Stadium

Referee:
Gerry Connelly

Crowd: 4763

NORTHERN SPIRIT:
Henderson, Watts, Cartwright, Spencer, Trajkovski, McDermott, Foster, Enes (Bell 74), Hutchinson, Cardozo and Cervinski (Griffiths 61).

Subs not used:
Mendez, Acevski.

PAUL Henderson returned to the form that had him touted as Australia's most promising goalkeeper two years ago when he put up a brick wall that helped Northern Spirit to a 2-0 win over Marconi at Marconi Stadium last Saturday.

It was ironic that Henderson's best game in three years came at the ground where his stellar 1998/99 season ended when the Stallions defeated Spirit 2-1 in that epic semi-final clash.

Make no mistake –- Hendo is back and almost single-handedly delivered Northern Spirit its third win of the season and firmly entrenched the team in the top six.

He was called upon twice in the first half to make goal-saving stops but it was late in the game when he came into his own.

On four or five occasions he saved certain Marconi goals. One in particular was magnificent, when he dived at the feet of two advancing Marconi strikers after he had done very well to stop an original shot that took a wicked bounce off the patchy Marconi Stadium goal area.

With Henderson doing a great job at one end, it was substitute Simon Bell who brightened Spirit's day at the business end of the field when he scored his first goal for the club – against his former team mates.

Bell, whom coach Mick Hickman admitted was unlucky not to start the game, was thrust into the action in the 74th minute and with his first and second touches of the ball he set up and then scored the opening goal.

He won possession in midfield and found Andrew McDermott on the right hand side before making a strong near post run where he met McDermott's pinpoint cross with a solid header that was right out of the text book.

Marconi goalkeeper Michael Turnbull could do nothing as it bounced into the corner of the net. Bell's joy was obvious as he set off on one of the most extravagant and lengthy goal celebrations in NSL history, chased all the way by his appreciative and thrilled team mates.

After the goal, Marconi coach Lee Sterrey pleaded with his side to remain calm but Spirit delivered the killer blow five minutes later when John Hutchinson was on the spot to head home his third goal of the season and for the third time it came through a Robbie Trajkovski cross.

This time it was a brilliant switch of play by Pablo Cardozo that sent Trajkovski down the right flank and his cross floated to the back post where Hutchinson outjumped his marker and lobbed the ball over a stranded Turnbull.

Game, set, match!

The win was Spirit's first ever at Marconi Stadium and maintained its four-game unbeaten stretch away from home this season following a win over Parramatta, and draws with Adelaide and Brisbane.

SPIRIT POINTS

WITH TIM PRENTICE

SIMON Bell's goal celebration out at Marconi last Saturday night was a beauty. The colourful Cameroonian player took off on a long run as hordes of his Spirit team-mates tried desperately to catch him. Bell was thrilled to score against his former club and his exuberance had to be seen to be believed. Spirit fans should be on the lookout for something special if he manages to score again in this week's clash with Perth Glory. The man with the "life-saver" hair has been working on a special repertoire at training and I hear he is ready to unleash some something very special on an unsuspecting public.

ATTENTION all of you young Spirit fans! How would you like to win a Northern Spirit T-shirt signed by Leeds and Australian superstar Harry Kewell? Simply produce your loyalty card at the gate and sign on for a chance to win one of FIVE autographed shirts your favourite club will give away tonight. There are also heaps of Spirit stickers up for grabs for those carrying their loyalty cards.

GOOD reports have been filtering through on Spirit youngsters Jacob Rex and Brent Fisher, who have been on special "work experience" assignments with Glasgow Rangers in Scotland. Rex had a session with one of Rangers' senior goalkeepers last week and performed very well. Fisher has been equally impressive and there is no doubt both players will return to Australia enriched by the experience.

UNFORTUNATELY, there will be no post-game function held in the Mollie Dive Stand after the Glory game. This match was originally set down for Wednesday night and another group slipped in and booked the place. Rest assured, Mollie Dive will be back in action after the next home game against Sydney United on December 7. At this function, Spirit members will be entitled to take one guest in with them.

SUPER striker Damian Mori simply loves playing against Northern Spirit. Over the past three years he has scored NINE goals against the Spirit boys, representing the Adelaide and Perth clubs.

Interestingly, whenever he has scored one goal he has gone right on with the job, scoring four, three and two.

BIRTHDAY BEAT: Spirit striker Adrian Cervinski turned 28 last Saturday, while goalie Lupce Acevski celebrated his 24th birthday on November 14.

THERE should be plenty of fun and games in the VIP boxes when Spirit takes on the Perth Glory.

Matchday sponsor is Bankwest which has sponsorship agreements in place with both NSL clubs.

SPIRIT captain Craig Foster has been going great guns as a commentator with both Channel 7 and the pay TV outlet, C7. Fozzie knows his soccer inside out and is coming across with great knowledge and expert analysis for viewers. While on Channel 7, the Epping bosses have latched onto Spirit's revival year in a big way. When they telecast next week's away game against the Football Kingz, it will be the eighth Spirit game on the small screen in nine rounds!

FOR all the news and views on Northern Spirit Football Club, don't forget to make regular checks of the official website www.northernspirit.com.au. For fans who are partial to a bit of internet surfing, there's a good chat site to be found at www.spiritfans.com and a brand newie you'll find forever lively and forthright: www.robbieslater.com

TICK. . .TICK. . . .TICK. . . That's the sound of the new 90-minute clock that our good friends from North Sydney Council must have on order. We Spirit fans are hanging out for the only item lacking at picturesque North Sydney Oval..

INJURED Youth team player Alex Wilkinson has been anything but idle while nursing his broken foot. Wilko filled in for Phil Smealie last week when the team manager had to miss a game because of an important business engagement.

YOUTH team coach Phil Moss and first grade player Troy Cranney almost gave Spirit CEO Colin Mitchell a heart attack last week. The pair turned up at Martin Place to raise money for the Kids' Helpline project. Their appearance (along with a host of other celebrities) meant they had to be locked in a jail cell and use their mobile phones to raise suitable "bail" money to secure a release. Putting on a distressed voice, Mossy rang Mitchell and the conversation went roughly as follows:

MOSS: "Hello Colin, Troy Cranney and I are locked up in a city jail and need you to bail us out urgently!"

MITCHELL: "Oh my God, does the media know about this? What have you done?"

MOSS: "You gotta help, boss. We are here in town wearing prison clothes and the handcuffs are hurting."

MITCHELL: "How much do you need? I guess I'll have to do something to get you out of there."

A tidy sum was agreed to after the lads finally came clean and revealed the true meaning of their call. I hear that Mitchell was a very relieved man when he put down the phone. He was last heard making threats about docking a couple of employees' wages. . ..

HI-SPIRITED

A woman was reading a newspaper one morning and said to her husband: "Look at this, dear. There's an article here about a man who traded his wife for a season ticket to Arsenal. You wouldn't do a thing like that, would you?"

"Of course I wouldn't!" replied her husband. "The season's almost over!"

*** TIM PRENTICE is Executive Producer of Radio 2KY's Big Sports Breakfast which goes to air weekdays from Monday to Friday from 6-10am. Co-hosts Greg Radley and Richard Freedman present heaps of soccer news and views from home and abroad.

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FOZZIE'S POZZIE

BY NORTHERN SPIRIT CAPTAIN CRAIG FOSTER

THIS week we entertain Perth Glory and it is always great to meet them, whether it be here or at Perth Oval, because the game pits together two clubs really trying to take the game forward in Australia.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not putting down the foundation clubs that have been in the NSL for 20 years or more. They have helped forge our history and contributed greatly to the development of the code.

As we stand on the eve of Australia's return World Cup qualifying clash with Uruguay in South America, the NSL needs to be attracting a wider audience and it is clubs like Perth Glory, Northern Spirit, Newcastle, Brisbane and Parramatta that are striving to do that.

This country has a huge opportunity to take advantage of the profile the last two weeks have given our sport and if we qualify – correction – WHEN we qualify for the World Cup, the future of the sport will be in our hands.

Soccer (or football, for the purists' sake) already has massive appeal to the mainstream Australian public. That is painfully obvious when you drive past sports fields and see soccer posts scattered all over the place, with only a sprinkling of rugby and AFL posts.

Whenever the Socceroos play, local attention swings to the round ball code and the many fans who follow Manchester United, Juventus, Rangers and Boca Juniors all unite and talk about the game.

I believe we need more Northern Spirits and Perth Glorys to help run off the back of the lift in profile the sport is currently having to attract these fans to become Spirit, Glory fans and Power fans and so on.

Let's hope we can top off a great fortnight for Australian soccer with a Northern Spirit win at North Sydney Oval tonight and a World Cup berth for the Socceroos.

Behind the Mike

BY HEAD COACH MICK HICKMAN

WHAT a fascinating National Soccer League we have unfolding in front of us after the opening seven rounds of the competition.

I think it is fair to say that our visitors for tonight's game, Perth Glory, are the stand-out team over the initial stages of the competition but aside from Perth, the League is wide open.

We played Perth three times in the pre-season and they were outstanding. Even at that early stage I commented they would be the team to beat.

Nothing that has happened over the first seven rounds has changed my thoughts – if anything, they might be even harder to beat for 2001-02 honours!

But, Perth aside, the NSL is a very wide open affair.

Northern Spirit, Newcastle United, Brisbane, Marconi, Parramatta, Olympic, Melbourne Knights and Adelaide are currently battling it out on the fringe of the top six and you would have to be a fool to rule out teams like South Melbourne and Wollongong after what they have done over the past few years.

In a nutshell, there is a real fight for a place in the top six and a few results here and there could make all the difference.

What it will come down to is the desperation of the team and a few individual pieces of brilliance.

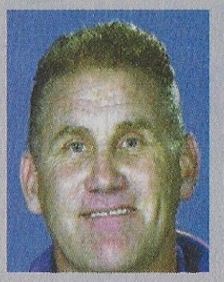
Individual acts turn matches and we need people to stand up. The perfect example is the goal scored by Pablo Cardozo in the first game against Parramatta Power.

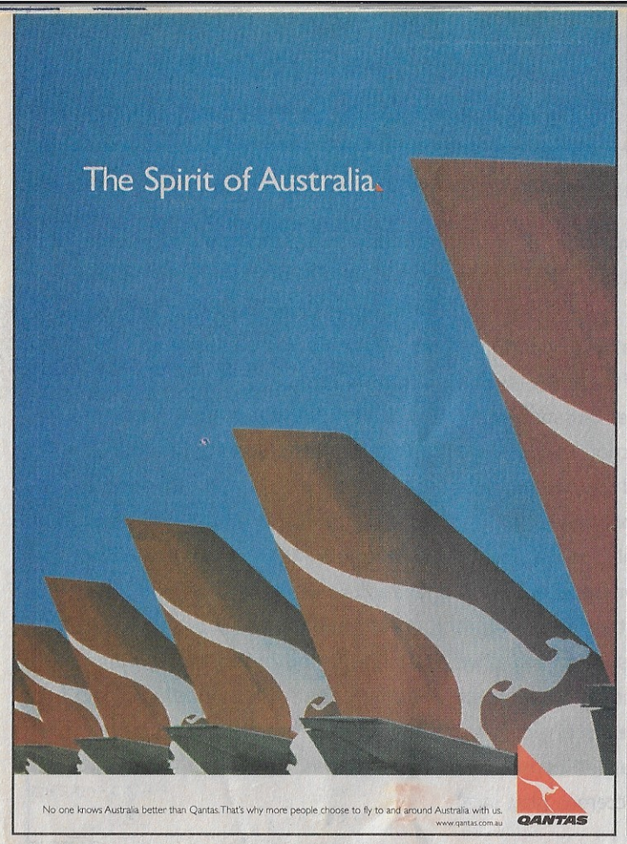
Parramatta began that match well, went a goal up early and looked the goods. All of a sudden Pablo rifled a shot into the top corner from 25m, the tide turned, and we ran off winners.

In saying that, it doesn't necessarily have to be a goal that can turn games.

Last home game against South Melbourne saw another moment when Simon Bell came onto the field and with some speed and a bit of skill, he beat three or four defenders and got a good shot on goal.

It lifted the team and the crowd, which in turn helps the players hang on or surge ahead. In this case we lifted and hung onto a 1-0 lead and won the game.





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HOWE-ZAT

BY ANDREW HOWE

Northern Spirit v Perth Glory

HEAD TO HEAD

Summary - ALL GAMES @ NORTH SYDNEY OVAL

Total games played	**6**
Northern Spirit wins	2
Perth Glory wins	3
Draws	1
- Northern Spirit goals	5
- Perth Glory goals	8

Last Northern Spirit win
24.11.00 Northern Spirit Perth Glory 2-0

Last Perth Glory win
10.03.01 Northern Spirit Perth Glory 1-4

Best Northern Spirit result
24.11.00 Northern Spirit Perth Glory 2-0

Best Perth Glory result
10.03.01 Northern Spirit Perth Glory 1-4

First time they met - 18.10.98 (round 2 1998/99)
PERTH GLORY 2 (Paul Strudwick 57', John Markovski 78')
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
Venue: Perth Oval. Crowd: 17580.
Perth Glory: Danny Milosevic, Gavin Wilkinson, Danny Hay, Vinko Buljubasic, Robert Trajkovski, Scott Miller, Gareth Naven (Con Boutsianis 83'), Troy Halpin (Vas Kalogeracos 63'), Paul Strudwick (Michael Garcia 79'), Bobby Despotovski, John Markovski.
Northern Spirit: Paul Henderson, Nicholas Purdue (Daniel Watkins 69'), Luke Casserly, Michael Cunico, Paul Bilokapic, Ian Crook (Eddie Bosnar 31'), Robert Enes (Philip Moss 83'), Kresimir Marusic, Troy Cranney, Robbie Slater, Clayton Zane.

Last time they met - 10.03.01 (round 22 2000/01)
PERTH GLORY 4 (Damian Mori 10', 70', Bobby Despotovski 17'pen, 89')
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Ben Burgess 8'pen)
Venue: Perth Oval. Crowd: 11991.
Perth Glory: Jason Petkovic, Shane Pryce, Jamie Harnwell, Craig Deans, Scott Miller, Gareth Naven, Edgar Aldrighi, Gary Faria, Bobby Despotovski, Alistair Edwards (John Carbone 84'), Damian Mori
Northern Spirit: John Perosh, Matthew Langdon, Michael Cunico, Mike Smith (Lee Feeney 79'), Robert Enes, Noel Spencer, Stuart Howson, Troy Cranney, Craig Foster, Ben Burgess, Daniel Watkins

SQUAD - Northern Spirit

Player	Age	01/02 Season Games	01/02 Season Goals	Northern Spirit Games	Northern Spirit Goals	NSL career Games	NSL career Goals
Lupce Acevski	24	4	0	4	0	39	0
Simon Bell (CMR)	23	3	1	3	1	24	1
Pablo Cardozo	28	7	4	7	4	242	100
Michael Cartwright	22	7	0	7	0	52	1
Adrian Cervinski	28	7	0	7	0	151	63
Troy Cranney	29	4	0	62	1	260	17
Robert Enes	26	7	1	71	2	141	8
Craig Foster	32	6	0	27	2	177	23
Ryan Griffiths	20	4	0	28	4	28	4
Paul Henderson	25	4	0	69	0	69	0
John Hutchinson	21	7	3	7	3	96	10
Andrew McDermott	24	7	0	7	0	7	0
Gabriel Mendez	28	1	0	28	3	127	19
Tony Perinich	29	3	0	31	4	107	23
Jacek Sobczyk	22	1	0	30	0	30	0
Noel Spencer	24	5	0	25	0	104	3
Robert Trajkovski	29	7	0	7	0	166	6
Julian Watts	30	7	1	7	1	7	1

Coach Mick Hickman — Northern Spirit 20 (W05-D07-L08); All matches 105 (W43-D37-L25)

SQUAD - Perth Glory

Player	Age	01/02 Season Games	01/02 Season Goals	Perth Glory Games	Perth Glory Goals	NSL career Games	NSL career Goals
Edgar Aldrighi	27	6	0	69	1	69	1
Craig Deans	27	6	0	38	2	74	2
Bobby Despotovski	30	6	5	136	62	160	72
Alistair Edwards	33	6	0	73	24	153	34
Gary Faria	22	6	0	33	3	33	3
Michael Garcia	24	6	0	36	4	63	4
Todd Harnwell	21	5	0	6	0	6	0
Matthew Horsley	29	6	1	6	1	290	37
Brad Maloney	29	6	2	24	7	261	69
Scott Miller	29	6	1	147	15	196	18
Damian Mori	31	6	9	34	28	333	176
Jason Petkovic	28	6	0	65	0	220	0
Shane Pryce	28	6	0	25	1	154	18
David Tarka	18	2	0	2	0	2	0
Dion Valle	24	1	0	35	0	35	0

Coach Mich D'Avray — Perth Glory 06 (W06-D00-L00); All matches 06 (W06-D06-L06)

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE LADDER 2001-2002

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	G/D
Perth Glory	**6**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**18**	**4**	**18**	**+14**
Newcastle United	**7**	**4**	**3**	**0**	**10**	**5**	**15**	**+ 5**
Brisbane Strikers	**6**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**11**	**6**	**13**	**+ 5**
Northern Spirit	**7**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**10**	**8**	**12**	**+ 2**
Olympic Sharks	**6**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**4**	**10**	**+ 3**
Marconi Stallions	**6**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**9**	**9**	**8**	**0**
Parramatta Power	7	2	2	3	8	10	8	- 2
Melbourne Knights	7	2	1	4	4	9	7	- 5
Adelaide City Force	6	1	3	2	8	7	6	+ 1
Kingz FC	6	1	2	3	10	17	5	- 7
Wollongong Wolves	7	1	2	4	5	13	5	- 8
South Melbourne	6	1	1	4	3	6	4	- 3
Sydney United	7	1	1	5	5	10	4	- 5

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GREAT SCOTT! THOMAS IS BACK IN BUSINESS

BY DAVID MASON

A STRONG performance by returning first grade star Scott Thomas put a smile on the faces of Spirit officials but the nuggetty midfielder couldn't stop the Spirit Youth team from going down 3-1 to the Marconi Youth team at Marconi Stadium last Saturday.

Recovering from off season surgery, Thomas played 90 minutes after a 60 minute stint the previous week and was strong in defence and creative with the ball. More importantly he ran all day in oppressive conditions.

Marconi started the stronger of the two sides and deservedly opened the scoring midway through the first half but Spirit did not deserve, nor expect, to go 2-0 down less than 30 seconds later when Jacek Sobczyk and goalkeeper Luke Femia had a misunderstanding in defence.

At that stage Marconi looked like running away with the game but Simon Catanzaro brought the Spirit back into the game with a great goal on the stroke of halftime after good lead up work with Adam Foti.

At 2-1 down going into the break, Spirit had the upper hand and played some good football on resumption but Marconi scored a decisive third goal late in the game to take the three points.

After the game, coach Phil Moss was optimistic about his side's progress and singled out Thomas, Joeys' defender Matthew Hunter and Foti for special praise.

"We were beaten by a better side on the day but there were some positives to come out of the game for us," Moss said. "We fought our way back into the contest after conceding two very quick goals and that is a good sign for the team.

"It would have been easy for them to go into their shell after that but they showed me they have some character and we dominated the game for a period after their second goal.

"They were just a little too good for us today but I maintain we still have the players to make the top four. We just have to get everyone fit and available."

Missing last Saturday were Joeys' defender Alex Wilkinson, Joeys' goalkeeper Jacob Rex and Kiwi strikers Brent Fisher and Aaron Burgess.

1 Parramatta Youth	0-5 loss
2 Newcastle Youth	0-1 loss
3 AIS	1-2 loss
4 Olympic Youth	1-1 draw
5 QAS	3-3 draw
6 Sydney Utd Colts	3-0 win
7 Marconi Youth	1-3 loss
8 NSWIS	Nov 22 home
9 ACT Academy	Dec 2 away
10 Sydney Utd Youth	Dec 8 home
11 Brisbane Toro	Dec 16 away
12 Marconi Colts	Dec 21 home
13 Wollongong Youth	Jan 4 away
14 Parramatta Youth	Jan 12 home
15 Newcastle Youth	Jan 18 away
16 AIS	Jan 26 home
17 Olympic Youth	Feb 2 away
18 QAS	Feb 8 home
19 Sydney Utd Colts	Feb 16 away
20 Marconi Youth	Feb 23 home
21 NSWIS	Mar 1 away
22 ACT Academy	Mar 9 home
23 Sydney Utd Youth	Mar 17 away
24 Brisbane Toro	Mar 23 home
25 Marconi Colts	Mar 31 away
26 Wollongong Youth	Apr 7 home

RECENT RESULTS

Rd 6 Northern Spirit 3 (Adam Foti 2, Aaron Burgess) d Sydney United Colts 0

Rd 7 Marconi Youth 3 d Northern Spirit 1 (Simon Catanzaro)

Northern Spirit 3 (Adam Foti 2, Aaron Burgess) d Sydney United Colts

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The Spirit of Youth

BY ANDREW PRENTICE

NORTHERN Spirit Youth striker Adam Foti is typical of those who play in the position -- he's agile, skilful and a proven goalscorer who loves nothing more than planting the ball in the back of the net.

Adam was smitten by soccer at an early age, starting as a five-year-old in 1990, and wearing the colours of the Belrose-Terrey Hills club until 1995.

His introduction to rep football came through Manly-Warringah in Cadet Youth League and Foti was a key member of Manly's State Cup winning outfit in the Under 12s.

Foti's time in Cadet Youth was also strengthened by the fact that games were played on Sundays. He played club soccer for Belrose on Saturdays and backed up in the Cadet League on Sundays.

"I used to love those weekends," Foti told Northern Spirit News. "It was all about soccer and I couldn't get enough of it. "

With fond memory, Adam recalled one particular game for Manly-Warringah. It was against Nepean Association in the Under 12s and he bagged four goals.

"That was a really fun game to play, I will never forget it. The team knocked the ball around well and I just happened to be in the right place at the right time to put a few goals away."

Foti progressed to the Super Youth League in 1997, having one season with the Manly Warringah Dolphins in the Under 13s before jumping ship to play for Gladesville-Hornsby in the Under 14s the following year.

"The coaching at Gladesville-Hornsby was really good as I came through the ranks each season. When Spirit took over, it was very professional and I think my game had improved significantly."

A former student at Narrabeen Sports High School, Adam was involved in the Targeted Sports Programme before being accepted into a highly prestigious training camp staged at St Ives Showground, under the astute coaching of current Spirit assistant coach John Paul de Marigny and former Australian representative Grant Lee.

"Those training sessions were full on," Foti said. "All the players were very good and the coaching was first rate. It was very beneficial for my soccer."

Adam is enjoying training and playing for Spirit's Youth team but admits it is quite a transition playing against fringe first graders and established players returning from injury, compared with facing opponents his own age every week.

"It has been quite a step up from Youth League," he said. "It's a lot more physical and quicker. At times, you have to know where you are going to pass the ball before you even get it!"

While the striker position is Adam's favourite, he is also a capable midfield player who has even performed well at sweeper.

Foti has formulated a two year plan to break into Spirit's first grade squad, where he hopes to establish himself for a few years, before (hopefully) fulfilling a dream of travelling overseas to play in Italy's Serie A competition.

"I'd like to try and get a name in the NSL before possibly moving overseas to try my luck. Playing in Italy in front of 50,000 people every week would be the ultimate," he added.

Foti lists his favourite player as Italian hero Roberto Baggio, admitting to be mesmerised by his silky skills and top class positional play and finishing.

"The way Baggio approaches the game is great to watch. I try and base elements of my game on his."

There can be no better role model than the brilliant Baggio.

Adam Foti, at the age of 18, looks to be a player with loads of potential. He shapes as a dangerous package with all of the essentials to become a top class striker.

JOSEPH MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

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Robbie Slater in the first ever Northern Spirit game in October 1998 at North Sydney Oval



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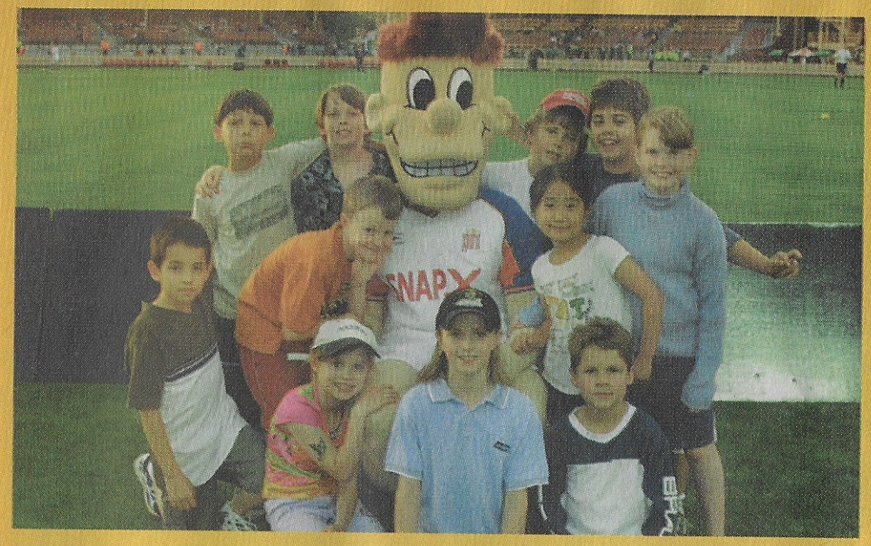
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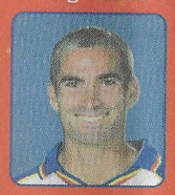
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Scott Thomas	Paul Henderson	Jean-Paul De Marigny
Andy McDermott	Jacek Sobczyk	(Assistant coach)
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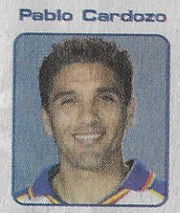

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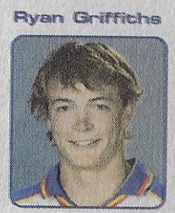

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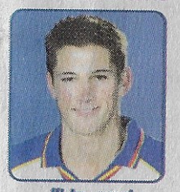

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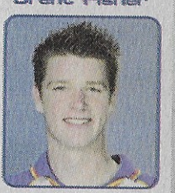

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Brent Fisher

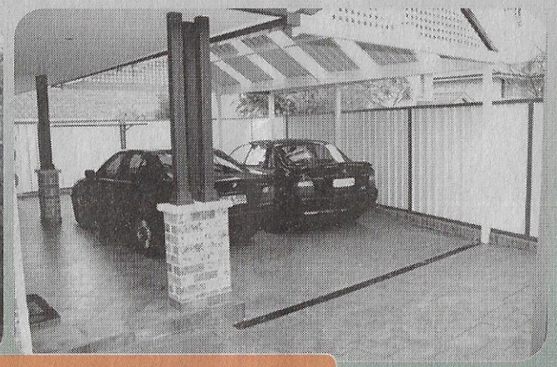
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